Lab Report – Todd Brees

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The labs were very beneficial and I appreciate the opportunity to work on them. My goal in approaching them over the break period was to work hard to get the most value out of the experience. In all honesty, it was a struggle – but ultimately I feel I learned a lot as I re-adjusted my approach and worked through them.

My initial approach focused strictly on the task at hand in each lab. I attempted to utilize the power points, and provided source code from the labs – but without the opportunity to work with the TAs, I found myself a little bit lost on the code. I was attempting to translate and apply what was in the provided code, but didn’t really understand what I was doing. This was counter to what I wanted to take out of the class so I adjusted and attempted to find tutorials that were a little bit more step-by-step, still providing guidance on what each step was accomplishing.

This approach seemed to work better for my learning, especially since I still have opportunities in my web-development skills relating to HTML/CSS/JavaScript. The resources I used to work through the focus materials were:

* Ionic Tutorial – <https://ccoenraets.github.io/ionic-tutorial/index.html>
* Ionic Unit Testing – <http://mcgivery.com/unit-testing-ionic-app>
* MongoDB – <http://cwbuecheler.com/web/tutorials/2013/node-express-mongo/>
* MongoDB REST Services – <http://cwbuecheler.com/web/tutorials/2014/restful-we-app-node-express-mongo>

These tutorials provided a great resource to work thorough to help me in my understanding as I worked to achieve the objectives outlined in the lab assignments.

**Lab 5**

For lab 5, I did not want to rely too heavily on the work done in the project, and I was struggling with some of the syntax expanding my earlier labs, so for the initial build of a mobile application I utilized the Ionic Tutorial from above. Working from a fresh project helped, especially as I attempted to resolve issues in regards to emulating android. From here, the tutorial provided a great walk thorough on working with ionic – especially in regards to API interaction, which came into play on the future tutorials.

From a testing standpoint, it was nice to find the tutorial getting me into some of the basics of JavaScript debugging. I still need to work to expand my knowledge in this area, but professionally, I am also working toward this area. While at DST my work area does not touch on mobile applications, we are moving more to a web-based environment and the knowledge of JavaScript is becoming a valuable as many of the programmers I work with have a history in COBOL and C++ development primarily.

**Lab 6**

For lab 6 I implemented the Cordova plugin for OAuth – as it was included as part of the earlier tutorial I completed. The android deployment was also completed as part of Lab 5. The Yslow analysis was easy to implement and very beneficial – I’m now using in for work related projects as well.

**Lab 7**

This lab I struggled with immensely. By following the PowerPoints, I was able to get my MongoDB set up the website, but I was not getting any of my current applications to connect to it. With some web research, I turned to the tutorial from <http://cwbuecheler.com/web/tutorials/2013/node-express-mongo/> and found a lot of value there. Of particular benefit was the fact that most of the work required user entry (and I made a conscious effort to do this rather than cut/paste) and the explanations were very good. Based upon this work, I feel that I am better prepared to translate this knowledge to other projects.

**Lab 8**

Similar to Lab 8, I found a lot of value in the work I executed here. In particular, the work on this lab and the previous one gave me a much better understanding of JavaScript structure and how the application was working in that context – giving more practical execution of AJAX from the usage in the earlier labs. I would reiterate that I found this exercise to be very beneficial and one that I am sure I will revisit in the future.